

Appl. No. 10/660,298
Amdt. Dated Nov. 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is requested.

Interview Summary O.K. G.A.

Applicant's representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended and helpful suggestions provided during the telephone interview of October 7, 2004. A copy of form PTOL-413A, providing details of the interview is attached. In the interview, Examiner asserted that pulping parameters are not clear; the Figure does not show calculation of pulping parameters in step 18 without first determining chemical species in step 16. Examiner asserted that claims to determination of pulping parameters based on only step (i) or (ii) of claim 1 (corresponding to steps 12 and 14, respectively, in the Figure), are not allowable, because both steps (i) and (ii) are required. Applicant's representative asserted that calculation of pulping parameters directly from the results of steps (i) and (ii), without first determining chemical species, is disclosed in the specification. Applicant's representative agreed to delete from the claims derivation of pulping parameters based only on step (i) or (ii), but not both. It is believed that the amendments provided herein are commensurate with the substance of the discussion in the interview in order to put the application in condition for allowance.

The cross-reference to related applications in paragraph [0001] of the specification has been amended to reflect the fact that the parent application, from which the present application is a divisional, is now a granted patent, U.S. Patent No. 6,635,147.

Claim 1 has been amended. In particular, the limitations of claim 4 have been incorporated into step (iii) of claim 1, specifying that the wood pulping parameters which may be determined are selected from the group consisting of Active Alkali, Total Titratable Alkali excluding Metaborate, Sulfidity of the green liquor, Sulfidity of the white liquor, Causticizing Efficiency, Activity and Causticity. However, Effective Alkali and Total Titratable Alkali including Metaborate have been deleted from the list of pulping parameters, because these parameters were derived from step (i) only, i.e. step (ii) was not required.